

**Administrative Order
No. 45
October 21, 1992**

**SUBJECT : Declaring a Moratorium on All
Commercial Logging in the Province of
Palawan**

WHEREAS, Republic Act 7611 otherwise known as the "STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN FOR PALAWAN ACT" was enacted and approved on June 19, 1992;

WHEREAS, the said Act aims to protect, develop and conserve the environment and natural resources in the province of Palawan, and with specific reference to forest resources, it is declared a policy of the State to pursue and implement forest protection and conservation through the imposition of a total commercial logging ban in, among others, "areas of maximum protection" or core zone as defined in the Act;

WHEREAS, the "areas of maximum protection" or core zone as defined in the law specifically includes residual forest;

WHEREAS, the law is clear and unambiguous under Section 9(1) thereof that this core zone or areas of maximum protection shall be "fully and strictly protected and maintained free of human disruption", hence, the declared policy of the State to impose a total commercial logging ban in said areas;

WHEREAS, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) created under R.A. 7611 is presently in the process of zoning and delineating the different zones comprising the Environmental Critical Areas Network (ECAN);

WHEREAS, the PCSD supports the declaration of the total commercial logging ban in Palawan as a policy of the State;

WHEREAS, in the meantime, there is a need to prevent the further disruption of the residual forests in Palawan in keeping with the declared policy of the State in order not to render ineffective and inutile the intent of R.A. 7611 to protect the remaining forests in said province;

WHEREFORE, pending the completion of the zoning and delineation of the different zones comprising the ECAN by the PCSD and on grounds of public interest, a

moratorium on all commercial logging in Palawan within the virgin and residual forest is hereby declared. Accordingly, all timber licenses operating in said province are hereby ordered to stop or suspend their logging or cutting operations within these areas. The Regional Executive Director of Region IV is hereby directed to fully enforce and implement this Order.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

ANGEL C. ALCALA
Secretary